

EUROPE AND THE WORLD

By F. A. SIX

One of the most essential factors to an understanding of the present world situation is the changed situation in which Europe finds itself toward the rest of the world. The following article, telegraphed to us from Berlin, is a short survey of this change.

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THE medieval structure of the Holy Roman Empire was the first example of a European concentration of power. The progressive weakening of this all-embracing structure led to the formation of individual nations and made the beginnings of a system of states possible. In the changing struggles of the late Middle Ages and early modern times, the nations gained their independence and developed the political techniques of disputes and interstate relations. Although the consciousness of a certain unity was preserved for a long time, the medieval structure with the empire as the leading authority was definitely abolished; the old idea of political authority on which this structure rested was replaced by the modern idea which rediscovered politics as the driving force of communal life and which was formulated once and for all by Machiavelli.

Until the system of states was fully developed, the individual powers struggled for supremacy in the now chaotic sphere of Europe. These endeavors were, on the other hand, opposed by the desire for independence on the part of the threatened nations, so that from then on Europe's history was characterized by the juxtaposition of the European states.

The expansive forces which had always been inherent in these states turned to overseas territories and included them in European politics. In this way the process of discoveries which took place at the close of the Middle Ages was endowed with world-historical significance. The discoveries introduced a political development whose course led to world politics in the true sense, to the inclusion of the whole earth in the effective sphere of European politics.

At first the history of Europe continued on its own undisturbed course. Overseas interests were included in the decisions wrought by European wars without playing any decisive role. However, the European conflicts gradually led to an increasing interlocking of what had formerly been separate points of dispute, entailing closer and closer relations among the European states, relations which found their expression in the numerous Pan-European congresses and conferences. The system of states had crystallized into an edifice of powers which now opposed any desire for hegemony on the part of one state by the regulating principle of balance. Soon the special position of England became discernible: lying at the edge of Europe she developed more and more into a ruling maritime power and acquired an extensive colonial empire which soon exceeded that of the other powers. The game of the European powers gained in versatility when during the eighteenth century Russia developed into a power in the east and began to have a determining voice in European affairs. A fundamental change, however, was brought about by the increasing weight of the overseas territories, which now themselves became the causes involving European powers in wars and which finally found opportunities during these wars of freeing themselves from the tutelage of their mother countries. From then on they followed their own tendencies of expansion within their spheres as did formerly the European mother countries.

This process had all the more far-reaching effects as Napoleon's ploughing up of the Continent fully occupied the European powers and as, even after his downfall, European domestic affairs continued to require all the nations' strength for a long time. The

result of this was that among the European powers it was only England who, in her aloofness from the affairs of Europe, was able to build up a world position and to represent Europe in the world.

When after the settlement of Continental problems caused by the Napoleonic period the European powers again turned to overseas expansion, they met not only with England's firm position but also with the United States and Japan, two new powers which, during the decades of Europe's isolation from overseas affairs, had abandoned their passive attitude and had, with England, entered the circle of world powers. The European powers were thus confronted with a development which began to deprive Europe of its hegemonic position and led to the replacement of the European system of states by a world system of states.

Among the European powers, France, for the sake of her Continental claims, in which she had a dominant interest, renounced any grandiose world-political claim and contented herself with the colonial empire granted her by England. Germany, however, whose founding as an empire had changed the conditions of balance on the Continent to which England's world policy had become accustomed, grew into the real rival of

England in world politics. To combat this rival, England saw herself forced to involve the non-European countries which had grown into world powers. In this way England found herself included in this world-state system on a par with other, equally powerful world states, which threatened soon to surpass her.

After it had been possible during the fifteen years from 1918 to 1933 to keep the center of Europe weak, Germany's rebirth led to the re-creation of the same fronts, to which this time the world-revolutionary aims of Bolshevism were added. The situation finally culminated in a second world war, which now, however, was also directed at the growing might of Japan. During its course, the last-remaining separate fields of conflict were included in the general world-political struggle. Just as in former centuries of European history the Continental powers stood out around which the smaller states grouped themselves, so now the world powers stand out which have united the other states within their spheres on a hegemonic or federative basis. In this decisive struggle for the future face of the earth, the freedom of Europe's peoples and the unity of its territory, as well as Europe's place among the world powers within their future structure of balance are at stake.

Americana

Apology

During a wage dispute, John L. Lewis, the well-known American labor leader, was opposed by Patrick J. Hurley, the former Secretary of War and at present Roosevelt's emissary to Chungking. Lewis called Hurley a "Judas who sold the ideals of his youth for thirty measly pieces of silver." When Hurley protested vehemently and demanded an apology, Lewis turned to the official arbitrators and said: "Okay, cut out the measly."

On the Job

Early one morning the volunteer fire brigade of Lohrville, Iowa, set out and drove several miles toward the east before it realized that the fiery reflection in the sky was the sunrise.

Tact

During the production of a new film, Marlene Dietrich complained that the scenes in which she appeared had not turned out well. The same cameraman had been behind the camera in the taking of *The Garden of Allah*, her favorite movie. So she had a few scenes shown from *The Garden of Allah* and said:

"In this film I look charming, why can't we do it as well this time?"

"Because I am eight years older," said the tactful photographer.